

LETTERS

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An Inhospitable Environment for Women?

ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION OF American State Geologists, I take exception to the portrayal of state geological surveys as "inhospitable places for women entering the profession" (Random Samples, "In the news," 14 Nov., p. 1147). According to this item, 8% of newly hired Ph.D.s at state surveys are women, while 25% of U.S. geoscience Ph.D.s in the past decade were awarded to women. However, it should be noted that qualified female geoscientists are increasingly difficult to recruit for state geological survey jobs because of stiff salary competition from academia and industry. Two-thirds of state geological surveys are within state agencies (the others being affiliated with academia), and state government jobs are notoriously lower paying than academic and industry jobs. Moreover, because of the lack of turnover within most state surveys, the prospects for career advancement for either gender are limited. Hence, state surveys are at a hiring disadvantage among those qualified women geoscience Ph.D.s who desire well-paying jobs with faster career tracks.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

News of the Week: "Cow ambles to the sequencing house" by J. Couzin (19 Dec., p. 2050). The article reported that \$5 million for the sequencing effort came from the Canadian government. In fact, the \$5 million was supplied by Genome Canada, which draws funds from philanthropic and private sources as well as the government.

News of the Week: "Gutsy fossil sets record for staying the course" by E. Stokstad (5 Dec., p. 1645). The ostracode *Colymbosathon eplecticus* was 5 millimeters long, not 5 centimeters long.

Random Samples: "Extended shelf life" (14 Nov., p. 1147). The name of Pamela Alderman was misspelled in the item about the proposed sale of a medical library collection. Interested parties may contact her at ccitpam@hotmail.com.

Reports: "Genome sequence of the radioresistant bacterium *Deinococcus radiodurans* R1" by O. White *et al.* (19 Nov. 1999, p. 1571). In this Report, it was erroneously reported that the strain that was sequenced was the R1 type strain of this species maintained at the ATCC under the designation 13939. Recent work by a variety of groups performing sequencing experiments on the *D. radiodurans* R1 type strain, ATCC 13939, shows that the *D. radiodurans* strain used in the White *et al.* Report is slightly different. Most differences appear to be single nucleotide substitutions, some of which result in frameshift and amino acid sequence differences in the predicted proteome for this strain versus the ATCC strain. The strain sequenced in this Report by TIGR was provided by Kenneth W. Minton [formally of the Uniformed Services University (USUHS), Bethesda, MD]. This strain was originally named *Micrococcus radiodurans* and was provided to Minton in 1986 by Bevan E. B. Moseley of the Agricultural and Food Research Council, Institute of Food Research, Reading Laboratory, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9AT, UK. The differences exhibited between the ATCC 13939 strain and the USUHS strain probably reflect mutations acquired during years of separate culture in the Moseley and Minton laboratories. Thanks to Michael J. Daly at USUHS, the sequenced *D. radiodurans* strain has been registered with the ATCC and bears the designation BAA-816. The authors sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this has caused the scientific community.

TECHNICAL COMMENT ABSTRACTS

COMMENT ON "Tubular Graphite Cones"

Jun Luo, Jing Zhu, Hengqiang Ye

Zhang *et al.* (Reports, 18 April 2003, p. 472) reported the synthesis of tubular graphite cones (TGCs) and concluded that the constituent graphite sheets had identical chiralities of a zigzag type across the entire diameter. We disagree with their analyses and find that the chiralities of these sheets are not uniformly zigzag.

Full text at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/303/5659/766c

RESPONSE TO COMMENT ON "Tubular Graphite Cones"

Guangyu Zhang, Xuedong Bai, Xin Jiang, Enge Wang

Luo *et al.* question our recent characterization of tubular graphite cones (TGCs). Based on detailed studies of the nanostructure of these materials, we do not believe that their comment provides any new information or challenges the results of our original report.

Full text at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/303/5659/766d